



GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

MARCH 2016 VOLUME 7 ISSUE 3

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Fasting from indifference – Beyoncé style



by Susan Beckett
Publisher

Beyoncé and Pope Francis seem to be on the same wavelength when it comes to responding to the pain and need of “the other,” as evidenced by their Super Bowl 50 half-time show and 2015 annual Lenten message, respectively.

Beyoncé delivered her message in her entertaining performance witnessed by the largest cross-demographic audience in our country. She told us to wake up – see – remember – acknowledge the obstacles and threats black Americans have faced and lived with since the 1960s.

She might have felt compelled to do so

to combat what Pope Francis describes as the globalization of indifference. Ironically, one way this indifference is propagated is by distracting people with sports, vicarious winning, and other forms of entertainment, from social media and television to fine dining and dieting fads. Eager to exempt Lent from this trend and return it to a spiritual practice, Pope Francis urged people give up spiritual indifference for Lent.

Francis wrote that “whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God’s voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades.

“We end up being incapable of feeling compassion at the outcry of the poor, weeping for other people’s pain, and feeling a need to help them, as though all this were someone else’s responsibility and not our own.

“But when we fast from this indifference, we can begin to feast on love.”

As a society we have been indifferent to the effects of racism. We have overlooked the failure to remark on the many murders of poor unknown blacks each day; the pain black parents must feel as they school their children on survival (avoiding drive-by shootings and overzealous police, working twice as hard to create a good impression, negotiating the paradoxes of life); the message young black girls absorb when they see that black dolls are priced at half the cost of same-brand white dolls.

Establishment belief systems continue to handicap minorities unduly. We enjoy performances by Will Smith, Halle Berry, Oprah Winfrey, Kevin Hart, Angela Basset and Morgan Freeman, but it takes a boycott of the Oscars by Jada Pinkett Smith and Spike Lee for us to notice that the white-dominated Academy nominated no black actors for major-category Oscars in 2015 and 2016.

And why is it that all major movie studios passed on financing *The Butler* until Harvey Weinstein came in at the end with funding for marketing and distribution? According to reporter and author of *The Butler*, Wil Haygood, it was the belief that no film would make money if all the lead actors were black. (It ended up as the top grossing film for three straight weeks and exceeded \$100 million in box office receipts.)

Author Elie Weisel said, “The opposite of love is not hate, it’s indifference.

The opposite of art is not ugliness, it’s indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it’s indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it’s indifference.”

How do we act when we are not indifferent? We challenge unfair assertions whether they occur at the dinner table or the board room. We speak relentlessly to those with power when we encounter injustice. We radically and intentionally change our expectations. We change our own ethos from “don’t get involved” to “find a way to help,” maybe even heroically. And, according to Pope Francis, spiritual growth is nourished through the pain or sacrifice of helping others, especially the poor.

But Beyoncé’s challenge might be better met with creative engagement – a deliberate investment in African-American neighborhoods and businesses – to counter centuries of discriminatory lending. Compassion-based aid diminishes over time, while the impact of creative rebuilders continues to grow and attract further investment.

Visitors from Inshinomaki, Japan described such interventions at a Penny Stamps lecture in Ann Arbor on January 29, 2016. Ishinomaki was a post-industrial city already in decline when it was inundated by the 2011 tsunami. Along with disaster relief came a few business people who realized that the economy needed to be totally rebuilt.

While cooperative housing and kitchens helped restart traditional fishing in Inshinomaki, they also worked with companies to create new industries. As the schools were rebuilt, the curriculum was altered to start teaching computer skills in elementary school. This was bolstered with an Information Technology (IT) Bootcamp

and Hackathon. Soon, Inshinomaki was IT-talent-rich. An IT business there now employs many who work remotely for major corporations.

University of Michigan (U-M) School of Art and Design Professor Nick Tobier described how a similar strategy is being used in Detroit neighborhoods that are far outside the downtown area being revitalized, particularly the Brightmoor neighborhood. U-M students and faculty have been working there with residents for over 20 years to create and develop local industries.

A new \$100,000 grant from the Knight foundation is enabling the Stamps School of Art and Design to open a Maker Space in Brightmoor in conjunction with their K-12 schools. Scheduled to open in April, the Maker Space will further nurture creative engagement, offering art and design workshops from prototyping and 3D printing, to hands-on work with wood, to entrepreneurship programming and more. It includes locally driven entrepreneurial initiatives that will help monetize new businesses based on local inventions, such as heated clothing to combat the cold while waiting for buses which run rarely in the remote neighborhoods, and a solar bike light built from a Gatorade bottle.

This infusion of money, creativity, pro bono expertise and education combined with an entrepreneurial outlook fits the formula for success derived from experience in Inshinomaki. Further, it is welcomed by residents as the assistance invests in them, recognizing their talent and ability.

And isn’t that the opposite of indifference? Finding in others that which we can appreciate, connect and engage with?

GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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Memory Aids



by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell
Groundcover Contributor

My friend Becky and her mom Catherine have had a long and strong relatedness one with the other. Catherine is in her 90s and is many steps into a dementia journey. Her once sharp mind no longer retains its earlier firmness. When you ask Becky if her mom still knows her, she always answers, "It doesn't matter, because I do the remembering for both of us now."

Becky has been in several writing groups with me since 2008. Recently on a Monday morning when the current group meets, we began one writing session with a collection of lids scattered across the table. There was a good-sized blue one from a mayonnaise jar, a long, small silver one that had topped a bath product, an extra-large brown one whose job had been to seal a container of fair trade hot chocolate, a large red one bearing the name of its peanut butter brand, a nondescript black one twisted off a bottle of tea, and several others.

Becky quickly gravitated to the red lid and wrote a beautiful piece revealing one of Catherine's long-standing habits. Apparently, for decades whenever Catherine needed to remember something, she put a red lid on the kitchen floor. The red lid without a note, list, or explanation always kept her from forgetting. Only the lid was needed. Her family had many funny stories over the years about friends coming by, seeing the lid on the floor, and bending over to retrieve it. Whoever was trying to help by picking up the lid was told it was there for a reason: Catherine had something to remember. When Catherine and Jim were away from home for a period of time, the red lid went with them. It was an all-purpose remembering tool Catherine could use anywhere.

About a week after the lids came out in that first writing group, I used them again with a group of seniors whose writing is a never-ending source of delight for me. As I put the last of the eight lids on the table space among us, Aydene quipped, "It's like a new game." The minute the words were out of her

mouth, they sent me tumbling down a rabbit hole of memory.

On the page of my journal, I was there years before visiting with Helen, the surviving sister of Mabel. Their last name was Fredericksen. All of us who knew them simply called them the Freds. Both of them were hardworking and generous, ever willing to try something new. They were so easy to love.

Mabel was ladylike. When she was on a cleaning crew at church, she showed

up neatly attired in her blouse and skirt or her dress, fashionably belted. Helen's eyesight was extremely poor. She tended to see the world through her active sense of humor. The summer

heat of 1980 was deadly in Saint Louis. Late one summer day, I was sitting in the church office with the lights off. It felt cooler that way. I was on the phone with Helen and told her I had heard the high temperature for the following day was to be 92 degrees rather than the 105 degrees we had been enduring. Without taking a breath, she replied, "Well then, let's get out our furs!"

The memory thread between the writing lids and Helen was all about that visit in the nursing home toward the end of her life. By then she was in the health center. When I entered the all-purpose room, there was an enthusiastic game of bingo underway. Among the residents there, eyesight was at a premium. The markers they were using on their oversized bingo boards were at least as big as checkers and some of them the size of large lids. In the present tense, Aydene's comment about a new game was what was necessary for me to make my way back to Helen years before. As we all wrote, my page filled up with Helen stories, and I was so grateful Aydene's words had sent me in her direction.

We can aid each other in our re-remembering – literally our reattaching of the pieces. The assistance that we offer one another in reclaiming precious connections can be intentional or not, planned or an apparent accident. Remembrance joins back-then and right-now. It strengthens us, taps our hearts with joy, brings laughter to our tender sadness, and clarifies what matters deeply. Remembrance is sacred ordinary time. Who has helped you to remember? And when have you extended that gift to another?

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Michigan's medical marihuana laws: what you need to know



by **Angie Martell**
Groundcover
Contributor

Throughout the nation, there are 23 states, including Michigan, where it is legal to use medicinal cannabis (marijuana – or marihuana, as it is spelled in legal documents). While we are seeing a growing trend toward full legalization of marihuana in other states, we are also seeing a growing concern about the potential legal consequences that qualifying patients or care providers need to be aware of.

For many patients, the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act (MMMA), enacted seven years ago, has created the respite they desperately needed to handle health issues like chronic pain and the side-effects of chemotherapy. Yet, what some do not realize is that with the lawful use of medical marihuana, patients and caregivers often face restrictive dilemmas in certain legal areas and confusing twists and turns in legal proceedings.

Under the MMMA:

A qualifying patient who has been issued and possesses a registry identification card shall not be subject to arrest, prosecution, or penalty in any manner, or denied any right or privilege, including but not limited to civil penalty or disciplinary action by a business or occupational or professional licensing board or bureau, for the medical use of marihuana in accordance with this act, provided that that the qualifying patient possesses an amount of marihuana that does not exceed 2.5 ounces of usable marihuana, and, if the qualifying patient has not specified that a primary caregiver will be allowed under state law to cultivate marihuana for the qualifying patient, twelve marihuana plants kept in an enclosed, locked facility. Any incidental amount seed, stalks, and unusable roots shall also be allowed under state law and shall not be included in this amount.

Medical marihuana and criminal law

In the area of criminal law, people have been arrested in the past while possessing a valid registry identification card certifying them as “qualifying patients” under the MMMA. These individuals have, through their legal counsel, mounted affirmative defenses and immunity claims.

To establish immunity under § 4 of the MMMA, the defendant must prove four elements by a preponderance of the evidence: (1) the defendant possessed a valid registry identification card; (2) the defendant complied with the requisite volume limitations the MMMA statute; (3) the defendant kept any marihuana plants in an enclosed, locked facility; and (4) the defendant was engaged in the medical use of marihuana.

Under the MMMA, a defendant is presumed to be engaged in the medical use of marihuana if the defendant possesses a valid registry identification card and is not in violation of the volume limitations.

Child custody and parenting time

Under the MMMA, “[a] person shall not be denied custody or visitation of a minor for acting in accordance with this act, unless the person’s behavior is such that it creates an unreasonable danger to the minor that can be clearly articulated and substantiated.”

Yet we are seeing a growing body of cases where one party seeks to discredit another by asking the party to admit that he or she is a medical marihuana user under the MMMA and then using that “admission” to create an argument that the medical marihuana user is unfit.

Family law cases under MMMA are fact-specific

To change custody or parenting time,

a person must show that either there is “proper cause” to change custody or a parenting time order, and the grounds for change must be relevant to at least one or more of the 12 “best interest of the child factors” enumerated by case law (such as love and affection, capacity to provide guidance, moral fitness of party, mental health of party), or that there is a change of circumstances such that the conditions surrounding the custody or the parenting time of the child have changed significantly to have a detrimental effect on the child.

Can the judge use evidence of marihuana use in deciding or changing custody or parenting time? Probably.

Factors courts may consider:

1. Age of the child. Toddlers get into everything and demand an alert parent. With preteens and adolescents, the court might be concerned about psychological influence and access.
2. Health-related risks for children. Smoking or growing marihuana in a home where children reside could create legal issues. Prohibitions against smoking tobacco apply similarly to the act of smoking marihuana in that an argument could be made that secondhand smoke could be injurious to children.
3. Lab tests can also be performed on minors for second-hand smoke exposure – for example, hair follicle

samples to determine both amount and timeframe of use.

Tips:

- Do not smoke in front of the child.
- Clearly label medicinal marihuana jars and keep in a safe and child-proof location. Only a qualified user should have access.
- Possess or cultivate as little marihuana as your condition requires if you live in a home with a child.
- Use discretion when medicating and do not do so when your child is present. Consider medicating after a child is in bed or when you will not interact with him or her for several hours.
- Do not do anything negligent with marihuana in your system.
- Never smoke marihuana while supervising your children at the playground.
- Never drive with your children after medicating.
- Try to have one unmedicated parent or adult present at all times.
- Keep a journal regarding the precautions you have taken in case

see **MARIHUANA**, page 11



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Gun control – another cry in the wilderness (Part 2)

by Martin Stolzenberg
Groundcover Contributor

Editor's Note: The history and power of the NRA, and what our leaders do or don't do about it, was covered in Part 1 of this article, found in the February 2016 issue of Groundcover News.

Nearly every activity in this country requires a permit or license – cutting hair, teaching, practicing health care, working on other people's houses, driving – but the most potentially dangerous thing of all, making a gun purchase, does not require a license in most states. In fact, in the majority of states, all you have to do to purchase a rifle or handgun is walk into a gun store or go to a gun show and make a private transaction.

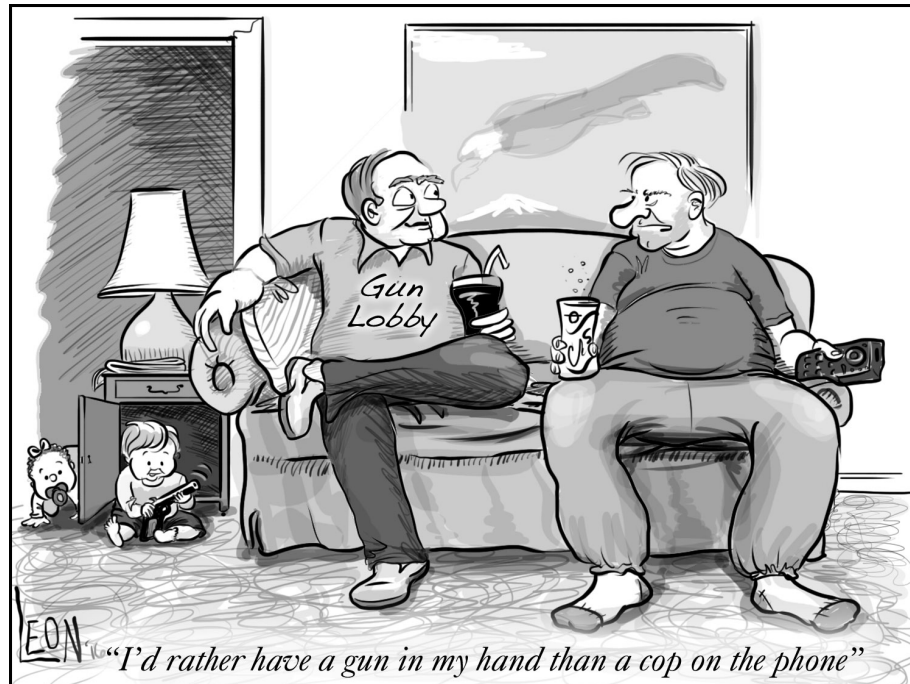
One reason for the easy access to guns is how the modern Supreme Court has interpreted the Second Amendment. The Amendment reads, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a Free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." In other words, you have to read the whole sentence to see that the right to bear arms is intended for the militia. It doesn't exist in a vacuum and was not intended to be a catch-all.

This didn't stop the gun industry. In the late 1970s the National Rifle Association (NRA) ramped up a series of articles to legitimize the right of the unregulated citizen to buy guns. The notion was ridiculed by the former U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger in a *PBS News* hour interview in 1992 when he called it "One of the greatest pieces of fraud – I repeat the word fraud – on the American public by special interest groups that I have ever seen in my lifetime."

That also didn't stop the U.S. Supreme Court in 2008, led by recently-deceased libertarian activist Justice Antonin Scalia, from enshrining this "fraud" by decreeing that the Second Amendment included the right to own a gun for self-protection in one's home. That's not what the Amendment said, but so it goes.

Impact of not requiring gun permits

The reason we need some forms of gun control is obvious. It has been shown that the states that have some form of gun control laws have much lower death rates than those who do not. Over a recent multi-year period, according to *New York Daily News*, 14 states (including New York) that had background checks for all handgun purchases, compared to the other 36 states, had:



- 46 percent fewer domestic violence gun killings
- 48 percent fewer law enforcement officers shot dead
- 48 percent fewer gun suicides
- 52 percent fewer mass shootings

In an interesting situation, Missouri passed relaxed gun control laws in 2007. Since that time, gun related deaths in that state have increased 15-20 percent by most measurements, while the national average has declined about 11 percent, according to *The New York Times*.

Guns as protection

Protection is the reason most frequently cited for unregulated gun ownership (48 percent) in a 2013 study conducted by the *Pew Research Center*. With the spate of mass killings in the last two years, this figure is probably higher now.

However, according to an analysis of federal government data from the *National Crime Victimization Survey*, "Having a gun provides no statistically significant benefit to a would-be victim during a criminal confrontation" because victims who used a firearm to defend themselves were injured 10.9 percent of the time during a criminal confrontation compared to 11 percent of unarmed victims who were injured. Furthermore, the research indicated that 4.1 percent of victims were injured "after brandishing a firearm," compared to just 2.4 percent of victims who were injured after running or hiding.

So chances are good that having a gun won't be a big help in case of a break-in, and the odds of that occurring are very low to begin with. But then there are the thousands of accidental shootings, incidents of household violence and suicide attempts that occur just because a gun is readily available.

Also from the *Pew Center* study: "The odds of using a gun defensively are actually so low that is difficult to accurately measure the number of defensive gun uses that occur each year in the U.S. But, it is estimated that 100,000 gunshot injuries are reported every year." Reading this, if I owned a gun today I would turn it into the police or throw it into the nearest river.

In fact, the NRA actually recently admitted in an their *NRA Noir* web series, in a hokey video with a magician laying out a deck of cards in random order and then trying to exactly repeat that order, that "The odds of you and me needing a gun to protect our lives is not that much better than *Colion the Incredible* putting these cards back in the exact order." Despite admitting the rarity of defensive gun uses, however,

the video did not make it clear that guns do not typically make people safer.

A way out of the wilderness

We are all rightly concerned by the terrorist and random killings that are increasingly occurring in our country. But these incidents hog the headlines while we largely ignore the over 30,000 people who die from gunshot wounds every year – that's almost 100 every day, about the same number as those who get killed by automobiles in our country. The difference is that cars aren't created to kill; guns are.

This danger is hidden from our citizenry behind the curtain that the NRA and its veiled co-conspirator, The National Shooting Sports Association, with its 7,000 member firms, have created. It is time for the Wizard of Oz to be revealed from behind the curtain. If every time there was a quote from the NRA and it was read instead by the public as, "The gun industry says" or "The gun industry wants," it wouldn't take long for attitudes toward gun control to change.

This seemingly simple step would gain traction if gun control activists undertook a public relations campaign to make people more aware of this insidious connection. The media and everyone should start referring to "the gun industry" rather than "the NRA." Then we might see some shifts in the public's attitude in gun-friendly states and meaningful legislation to help stem the violence.



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Legal Services – access to justice for The People

by Sue Budin
Groundcover Contributor

Tish Lee, managing attorney at Legal Services of South Central Michigan, relocated to Ann Arbor from Boston over 17 years ago. She has never left. Her commitment to values of social justice is strong. And her work and the work of her staff is a testament to those values.

Legal Services takes on tough cases that low-income clients would have no way of winning if not for their support. Following are two examples.

An older couple in Ypsilanti was facing foreclosure on their home. A businessman from Oakland County offered to help them. But instead of saving their home, he bought the home from them and offered to have them buy it back with high interest and other fees. The businessman also used a title company that didn't pay taxes on money it took from the couple. Legal Services sued the businessman and title company, resulting in a favorable settlement. The couple got their house back free and clear, and are up to date on their taxes.

In another case, a mentally ill man was living in subsidized housing and was on medication provided by Community Support and Treatment Services (CSTS) that helped control his symptoms. Because his Medicaid was terminated, CSTS could no longer give him the medication. Private treatment was unavailable. His condition deteriorated to the point of hallucinations, which caused him to do some damage to the housing complex. He was hospitalized and his landlord tried to evict him. He also lost his Housing Choice Voucher. In conjunction with the Fair Housing Center, Legal Services helped him retain his housing and his subsidy. They are also in the process of regaining full Medicaid coverage for him.

Legal Services has been in existence since the 1970s. As part of the War on Poverty, the government created the Legal Services Corporation, a federal agency that provides free legal aid to low-income people in civil cases. Every jurisdiction in the country has a legal aid office. The office in Ann Arbor is part of a larger group that serves a number of counties in south-central Michigan, covering Lansing, Battle Creek, Jackson and Monroe. The Ann Arbor field office just serves Washtenaw County.

Legal Services handles a variety of cases, including clients who need and are entitled to public benefits such as food and cash assistance, disability payments, and Medicaid and Medicare. They also handle cases related to consumer protection – such as wage



Legal Services staff members (L-R): Min Kim, Tonya Correll, Tish Lee, and Kristen Yarows.

garnishment and debt collection – and elder law issues, including long-term care, simple estate planning, and elder abuse and protection. Some of these cases come to them via their legal hotline.

One of this office's current top priorities is preventing homelessness. This means helping clients who are in danger of foreclosure and eviction by preserving subsidies and providing vouchers. Because of the foreclosure crisis of the mid-2000s, people were losing homes "fast and furious," said Lee. In response, the government and foundations provided more funding to Legal Aid offices throughout the country. Advocating for and representing clients who are illegally evicted or whose landlords accuse them of violating their leases is another function of Legal Services.

They also aid clients who are victims of domestic violence – and who often become homeless as they escape a toxic family situation. (These cases are initially handled by the University of Michigan's Family Law Project and must first be screened by SafeHouse.) Legal Services helps them apply for and obtain personal protection orders. They can also assist clients in getting child support.

Legal Services guides those who have trouble receiving benefits they're entitled to through the red tape of government bureaucracy. Those benefits can include income for basic needs, cash assistance programs, food donations and emergency relief.

To be eligible for their services, households must have incomes less than 200 percent of federal poverty levels. For example, a family of four is eligible if

its income is less than \$47,000. Sometimes, Legal Services receives grants enabling them to serve people with incomes above that level, but who qualifies depends on the nature of the grant. The agency also advocates for seniors and people with disabilities

who are often the most vulnerable to illegal eviction and other unscrupulous practices. Seniors who are over 60 and reside in Washtenaw County might qualify for their free services, depending on the legal matter and the office's resources. Cases are prioritized based on who is most vulnerable.

Legal Services is part of an extensive network of agencies all serving the same populations so that services can be coordinated and more efficiently provided. For example, Legal Services often works with Catholic Social Services, The

Ann Arbor Housing Commission, the Housing Bureau for Seniors, and the Washtenaw County Treasurer's Office. The Washtenaw Housing Alliance is the umbrella organization for all these agencies that deal with housing issues.

Legal Services is available to give talks to groups and to provide legal advice to community organizations (or to clients who may have grievances with these groups).

I asked Tish Lee what keeps her working at Legal Services. It's certainly not the money or long hours, she said – the job is intrinsically "incredibly rewarding." She and the rest of the staff believe in what they do in providing assistance to people who would not be able to get this help otherwise. They are dedicated to "access to justice" for everyone.

To contact Legal Services, you can call their office at (734) 665-6181. You can also get information on their services at their website, www.lsscm.org. Another, more comprehensive source of legal information and self-help tools is michiganlegalhelp.org.

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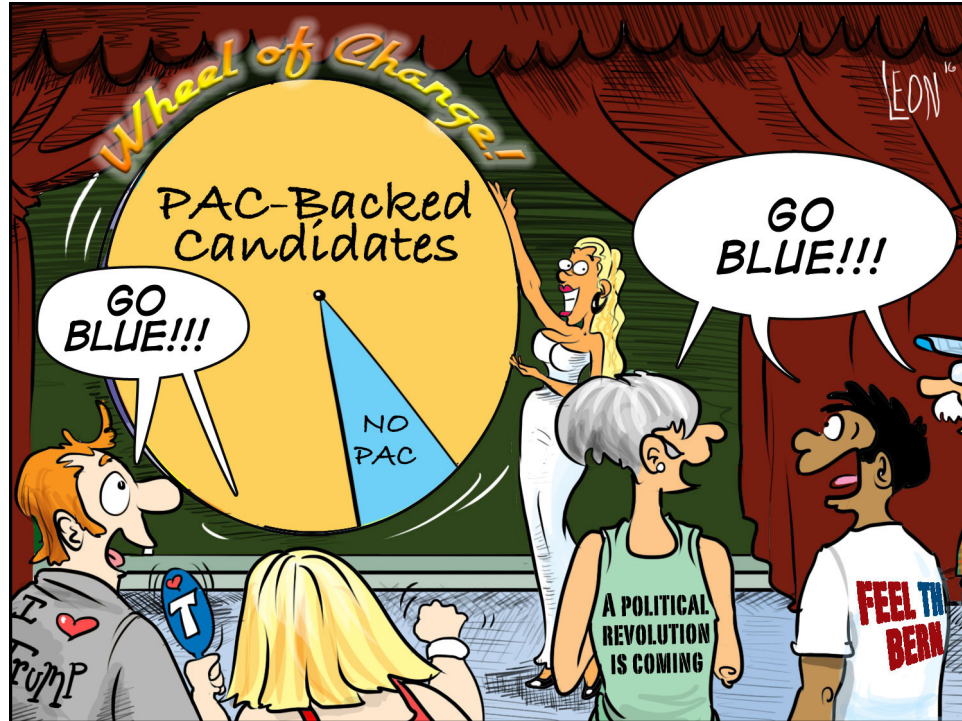
Mad as hell politics

by L. Raymond Johnson
Groundcover Contributor

After decades of falling wages for the majority of Americans, the establishment elite still doesn't get it. But, Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump do; both acknowledge that if the American people weren't at the end of their political ropes, neither would have a campaign.

Much has rightly been made about the rise of these unlikely candidates and their similarities. Trump has no political experience of any kind (save for his braggadocio about having paid off most of the political establishment on both sides of the aisle); no major political party has ever nominated anyone like him. Sanders, a 74-year-old self-described "democratic socialist" from Vermont, professes no religiosity (polls in the past have suggested little possible support for an atheist). Trump asserts a connection with Presbyterianism and seeks the support of religious Republicans, but doesn't begin to pass the evangelical smell test. It's not the relative lack of religious pandering driving these two candidates' popularity.

What Trump and Sanders really have in common is that neither relies on the "donor class" for money. Trump claims to self-fund, while Sanders has raised \$73 million in average increments of \$27. Voters seem to have realized that plutocrats don't invest millions in politicians for no reason and that special interests often don't align with those of



the great majority of normal citizens.

To the chagrin of many, Trump is the likely Republican nominee, way ahead in national and state polls, with insider "JEB!" nowhere to be seen. Ultimate insiders, "the Clintons," are formidable,

but Sanders is neck-and-neck in the early states and gaining nationally. The mold has been broken this election cycle and nobody knows what's going to happen.

People from different ends of the politi-

cal spectrum are mad as hell because their jobs have dried up and wages have fallen, for a very long time now. Middle class people have kids in college or hoping to attend. Our hometown U (Michigan) costs an instate student around \$120,000 for four years – more than the total net worth of most American families. Little wonder that student loan debt now tops \$1 trillion.

Two-thirds of Americans believe the country is headed in the wrong direction. Issues like gun control are out there, but Sanders and Trump are drawing huge crowds due to their focus on fundamental economics. Right and left, voters with very different views on social issues have finally figured out that they are getting screwed.

Trump blames immigrants and China, Sanders blames Wall Street and the wealth gap. Ironically, Bernie and the Donald may finally force a real debate about whether trade deals with countries that wipe out large numbers of

see MAD, page 12

Peace & Gratitude!

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The First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti, aided by the Presbyterian Churches in Washtenaw County.

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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

5:00 p.m.

Sunday

7:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

All Fridays of Lent

Mar 4th - Mar 18th, 2016

5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Fish Dinner

7:00 p.m. | The Stations of the Cross

Communal Penance Service

Thursday March 17, at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Thursday

March 24, 2016

7:00 p.m. | Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday

March 25, 2016

12:00 p.m. | The Cross in the City

1:30 p.m. | Veneration of the Cross

7:00 p.m. | Evening Prayer

Holy Saturday

March 26, 2016

12:00 p.m. | Blessing of Food

8:30 p.m. | Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday

March 27, 2016,

Masses at 8 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

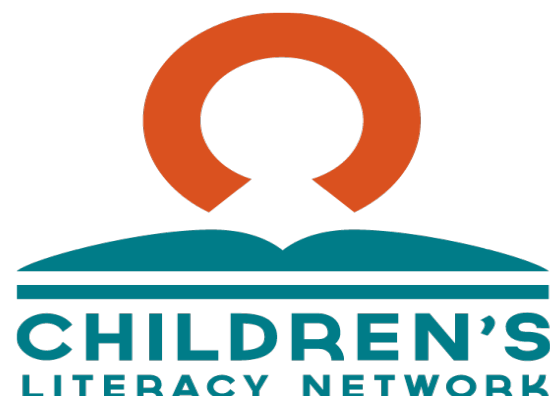
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Sudoku ★★★★★ 4puz.com

	8			7			3	
2				8	6		7	
						3		6 8
4					9	1		
3	7						1	6
				6	5			3
9	6		1					
		8		3	5			1
	3			4				8

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Cryptoquote:

CYMYLC SLT, DTL
BOTJ, WC FMYWO
PTH "YIV GVCC JV" HV
WO."
– HTOMFR HVMKMO

Clue: T = 4

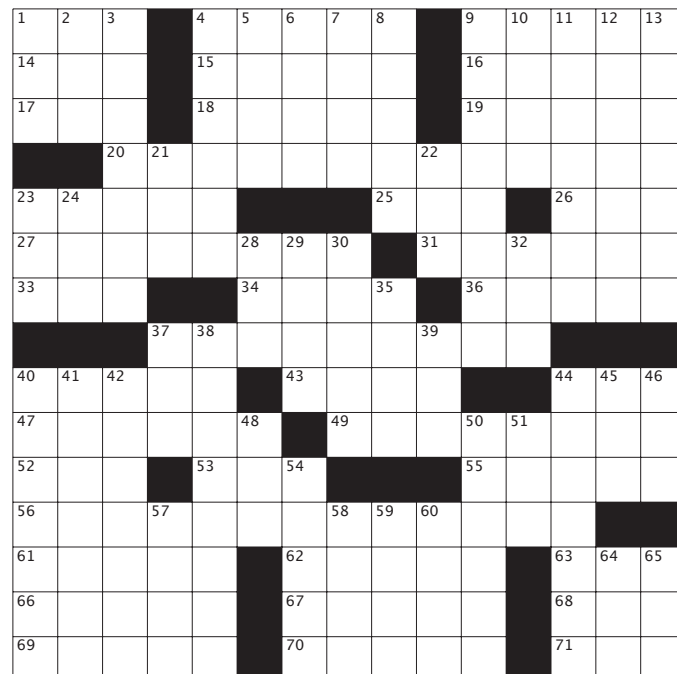
Take a Letter Peter A. Collins

ACROSS

- Cooking spray brand
- Seasons
- '70's TV title character
- Clean air act enforcers: Abbr.
- "Wicked Game" singer Chris
- Colorado rest town
- Buddhism branch
- First Indian P.M.
- Central location
- Place to buy and sell candied fruit?
- Circus prop
- Kobe's squad, on the scoreboard
- Capote-based play
- Crime scene picture-taker?
- Hosts
- Hither's partner
- Patriot Nathan
- "No more for me, thanks"
- Alternative operatic show-closer?
- Old Toyota model
- Drywall support
- The Great Leap Forward architect
- Comedians Tim and Woody
- Ski fee?
- RR stop
- H. W. to W., for instance
- One might be put in chicken soup?
- Marxist head line?
- Duff beer drinker on TV
- Bounce
- Stop making payments on
- The end of ____
- Eleniak of "Baywatch"
- "Can't Explain" singers (with "The")
- Puts on, as cargo
- Pulp fiction women
- Big Apple paper: Abbr.

DOWN

- Head-turning candy?
- Mammal subgroup
- Big house
- Serenade
- Between ports



© Peter A. Collins (Published via Across Lite)

- Bolger and Haley's "The Wizard of Oz" costar
- Rain delay sight
- "Hamlet" prop
- Musical based on the music of ABBA
- "Yeah, right!"
- Makes current
- 1954 Brando film
- Leave for safe-keeping
- Last: Abbr.
- Persian Gulf country, for short
- 34-Across, notably
- But, briefly
- Revolutionary Guevara
- Big galoots
- "The Bell Jar" author
- HQ boss
- Ornamental case
- List ender?
- El Salvador neighbor
- Bad cholesterol letters
- Easter-related
- Penn State satellite campus site
- Extremely busy
- Central Park's Manhattan locale
- Everyone
- ____ Miss
- ____ Marino
- Some beasts of burden
- Where to find a screwdriver?
- Prepared onions, in a way
- Trifling
- Poet Teasdale
- Baseboard
- Jab
- With 65-Down, "Oh, what the heck!", (and a hint to this puzzle's theme)
- See 64-Down

Groundcover Vendor Code

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1, or the face value of the paper. I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell

to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to:
contact@groundcovernews.com
734-707-9210



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-665-6149

Bethlehem Church is the home of the Groundcover office

Sunday Worship Times

8:30 am and 10:00 am

Sunday school at 10:15 am

Fellowship Hour follows each service

March Community Events – Welcome!

- Mar. 1 – Apr. 12** Weekly Faith Formation Class, Mon. at 7 or Tues. at 1
March 1 (Tue.) Open and Affirming Bible Study, 6:30
(See what the Bible has to say about welcoming our LGBTQ friends and neighbors)
- March 5 (Sat.)** Art and Pasta Fundraiser: "PASTA E L'ARTE"
5 pm preview & 6 pm dinner
Call the office at 665-6149 to get your tickets today.
- March 8 (Tue.)** Mary Martha Bible Study, 10 am
March 10 (Thur.) Bethlehem Concert Series:
Kenyon College Chamber Singers, 8:00 pm
(Suggested donation: \$20 adults, \$10 students)
- March 12 (Sat.)** German Pretzel Sales, 10:30 – 12 pm, \$1 or \$10 dozen
March 18 (Fri.) German Pretzel Sales, 11:00 – 2 pm, \$1 or \$10 dozen
March 20 (Sun.) PALM SUNDAY, 8:30 & 10:00 am Worship Services
Following service: Brunch, Cookie Sale, Egg Coloring
- March 24 (Thur.)** MAUNDY THURSDAY, Last Supper Remembrance, 7 pm
March 24-25 Labyrinth open for prayer and meditation in the gym
March 25 (Fri.) GOOD FRIDAY, 12:00 & 7:00 pm Worship Services
March 27 (Sun.) EASTER SUNDAY, 10:00 am Worship Service

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Kevin's perspective on life, love, and the WCC Seed Library

by Kevin Spangler
Groundcover Vendor #307

I would like to thank everyone for their generous donations. Also I would like to thank the two people who have donated silver coins to my collection after inspiring them with my life goals article.

It is a very exciting time for me. My new baby, Romando Anthony Spangler, was born January 30 at 5:46 A.M., three weeks late – 43 weeks in the womb. I have been praying for him to be a genius. I found out Albert Einstein was born at 43 weeks, as well. I pray for him to use his powerful brain for beautiful peace, not ugly war.

Baby Romando is perfect. When he sleeps he is calm and sweet and smiles at his dreams. He is advanced, efficient at communicating and growing quickly. He figured out how to breastfeed on his second try on the day he was born, and he develops better techniques with each feeding.

I have finally learned how to go to school. Technology has changed a lot in the last 16 years. I also have had to massively cut back on the hours that I work.

I am ready to move into my own place. I am looking for the best place in the world for me. I am looking for a place that will let me have a garden (read about the new WCC Seed Library, below) and space for farm animals as close to Ann Arbor as possible. I plan on starting a pedicab business for spring so I would like to live close to town.

The programs I am using to help me get back on my feet are from the Shelter



The birth of Kevin's son, Romando, had the most impact of the many changes in his life.

Association of Washtenaw County (Robert J. Delonis Center), where they pay first month's rent and security deposit. I am also signed up for a program that will help me with a portion of rent. There is a wait list for that program. I am at a point where I am ready to depart the wonderful shelter. I am nearing my three-month goal of staying there to get on my feet.

If you are homeless and would like to learn about services that can help you, call Housing Access of Washtenaw County (H.A.W.C.): (734) 961-1999. This is the first place to go and they will forward you to the resources that will help you best. These programs are intended help you get a step up in life and are not intended for long-term support. So set your goals higher than just

taking advantage of the system. Have a goal to be a contributor.

If you think it, it will happen. Thoughts become actions, actions become momentum, and momentum turns into success.

As a member of the Slow Food Movement and proponent of sustainability, I am organizing a social group at Washtenaw Community College (WCC) that is open to everyone, revolving around WCC's new seed bank: the WCC Seed Library. The Seed Library launch date is March 15, 2016 and it will be located in the Bailey Library in the Gunder Myran Building. Anyone can borrow up to 10 seed packets; no ID needed. Returning seeds is not required but you can harvest your seeds from your vegetables and fruits at the end of the growing season and return the seeds to the seed library in the original envelope and add a new envelope. Go to <http://libguides.wccnet.edu> for more information on the library and how to select and grow your seeds.

The youth are our Mother Earth's future. My goals for the seed library are to hold monthly meetings at the Seed Library involving

as many students as possible and any experienced gardeners from the community who are willing to share their knowledge. My vision for the future is to get our society back to being connected with Earth and providing for ourselves, our friends, and family. This program is important for the growing movement of supporting ourselves and being self-sustainable.

We are looking for enthusiastic people who are interested in learning, teaching and sharing knowledge who are willing to work with the Seed Library. I believe this will be an essential part of our new future. We will learn to take care of ourselves and make America sustainable again. If you are interested, call Kevin Spangler at (734) 686-2087.

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Thanks to GroundCover News for spreading the word and providing an outlet where there was none. We are proud to support your mission and good work!

Vendor Week recap



Mayor Christopher Taylor sold Groundcover with vendor Shelley DeNeve on Feb. 5.

by Elizabeth "Lit" Kurtz
Groundcover Vendor #157

The first week of February – International Street Paper Vendor Week – was one of the best for Groundcover News. From Ann Arbor Mayor Christopher Taylor's proclamation of support for Groundcover, to participation in D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read), we had a ball. Even on short notice, the Small Church Community (SCC) from St. Mary's Student Parish participated in a group reading of Groundcover News. They also placed a special ad in the paper.

Local businesses also placed ads specifi-

cally to congratulate vendors. Some vendors received monetary gifts or gift cards from their customers. One customer gave any vendor with a balloon a 10-dollar bill!

International Street Paper Vendor Week happens every year during the first week of February. It is designed not only to bring awareness of the paper to the general public, but also as an opportunity for vendors to feel appreciated for the work we do. It renews our spirits and gives us the added momentum we need to continue. While this year's Vendor Week was great, we're hoping next year will be even more spectacular.

Forms of Rescue

by Karen L. Totten
Groundcover Contributor

An everyday kindness is not so easily denied
in the mosh and roiling, or mundane practicalities of our lives.
You place a glass of water on the table beside my bed.
I stroke your tired face. Don't turn on the television.
Instead, play your guitar for me, sing that song
your aunt loved, Jo, the one who died last November.
Play as if your heart lies suspended amid a divinity of stars.
The very slightest connection between two people can bring alchemy.
It is our imagination which saves us,
the third eye looking back on myth and memory,
and forward toward the rising new moon.

Why I went to Flint

by **Cathy Dyer**
Groundcover Contributor

Cathy Dyer is an Ann Arbor resident. She has volunteered with a coalition of community groups working to help residents get needs met and to build community.

The spark was the call for Spanish speakers to help in Flint. This made me feel really needed, but I also went to begin to know a place, to make it personal. In my 50-some years, Flint had been a part of Michigan I'd never seen, and a place I'd turned away from. Now I decided to bear witness, to try to connect even a few people to hope.

My first canvas of the Eastside was on a Saturday afternoon in January in a mostly white area of retirees and some younger families. Most people said they were getting some water dropped off by groups, and most were going to the fire stations to get more.

The streets looked to me like Redford or Livonia – places in Metro Detroit where I grew up – but with a few abandoned houses. Everyone was friendly. My canvassing partners and I talked to a father and teenage son who obviously had many needs. They said the food stamps people had just notified them that they'd made a mistake and had overpaid them \$3,000, which they now wanted back. We met a family with children that hadn't been able to get out to get water for days so we called our hotline for a delivery.

Many families were doing okay, but were worried about home values and how soon we'd get the water system fixed. At an obviously well-loved house, we met an older woman who had baked cookies for the local fire fighters. We also met a man who looked a bit like my father and who talked on about how it's all Obama's fault for letting in the radicals. We listened, hoping an audience for his fears would help a bit. His eyes pleaded and he told us it is up to our generation to fix things.

I returned to canvas again a week later with my husband. It's less than an hour's drive, but a world away from my life in Ann Arbor. We were sent again to the Eastside, but farther north, just past the water works – industrial towers like forests – and lifeless, abandoned mobile home parks with wind whipping through like voices in a bad dream. It's more like the rougher areas of Detroit I see when I do presentations at schools there, but now I'm knocking on doors.

The houses are mostly boarded-up and empty. We pass some discarded trash bags on a sidewalk and a pair of silver-spangled dress sandals nearby. They remind me of Cinderella's shoe left behind in flight. Stories race in my mind about how they ended up there. Not many people are home in the remaining houses. There are a few lovingly cared-for houses and I can just imagine the street 20 years back alongside many others.

We are welcomed by people of color with faces filled with life, albeit a hard one. I say people of color instead of black because the first person we talk to says he doesn't use the word black because of its negative connotations. We learn that the neighborhood school has closed and drugs are prevalent.

One woman apologizes for not being able to talk because she has to drive her husband to work. We meet a family of six desperate to get a case worker. Someone shares that it takes seven bottles of water just to rinse food before cooking. We hear many stories of kids getting rashes, and a mom says her kids have a lead level of 18. I don't know the numbers but I can read the concern on her face. Some people share stories they've heard about warrants being served when people go to pick up water, and others of having to drink tap water in jail. Truth and rumor are harder to tease apart when you've been lied to and children have been poisoned.

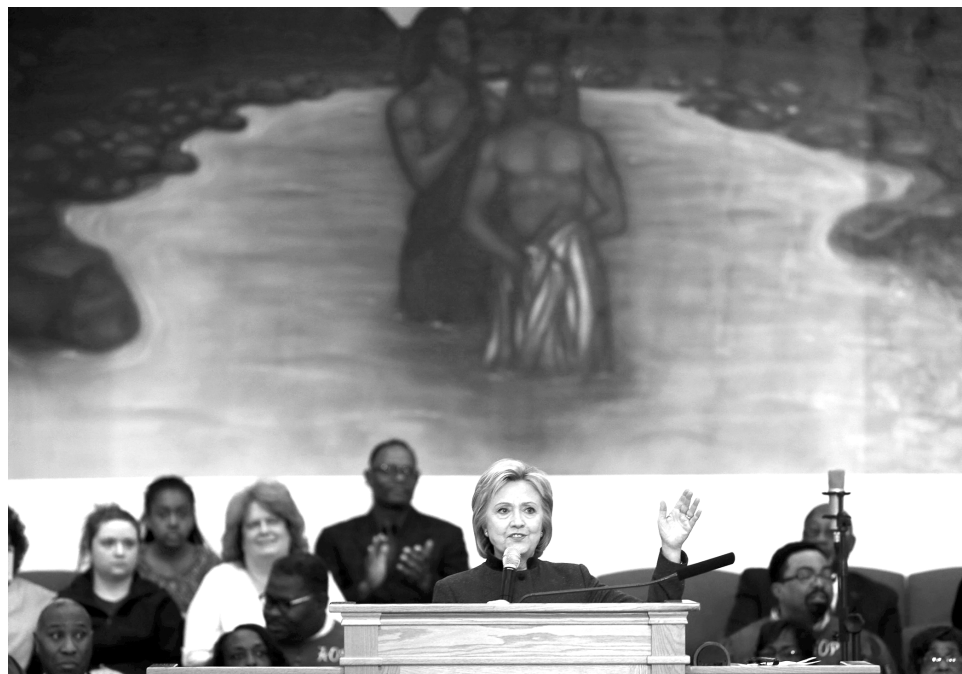
"This is part of discrimination," an articulate man with a graying beard says calmly. "This is a crime against people, and we are all human." He talks and listens, standing on the porch for about eight minutes in just a t-shirt and jeans while I listen, aware of my hands cold inside my gloves.

I watch my discomfort with having something open up in me as I listen to his story – how people don't pay attention to him in a store because of his color and how he is aware that I would be treated differently. There is no hint of edge or resentment in his voice, just explanation, and maybe some disappointment in humanity. I see again how many doors open in my life without my awareness of privilege.

I wonder if the friendly kids we meet can even play in the yards in this place visited by desperation. We hurry past boarded-up windows with some broken open, revealing the black maw entrance to a place promising a Heaven and Hell relief from the weight of "nowhere to thrive."



Cathy Dyer went house to house in Flint to bear witness and alert residents, especially Spanish-speakers, to the water dangers.



The water crisis has put Flint on the political map, drawing myriad elected officials and political hopefuls. Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton addressed the congregation about the Flint water crisis at the House of Prayer Missionary Baptist Church in Flint, Michigan February 7, 2016. REUTERS/Rebecca Cook

When does a home become half a home? Is it when the water can't be trusted? When officials can't be trusted? When people and companies chasing money up and go, taking morals with them?

In therapy, you look at the hard parts of your life, the places that seem to have no resolution. With patience you uncover the many facets and points of view that lead to healing. Hopefully that is what we can begin to do here.



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The Washtenaw ID: an ID for Tom

by Nicole Novak, Olivia Temrowski, and Alana Lebrón

U-M and Synod Community Services Contributors

This article is part of a series of vignettes that describe the lives of Washtenaw County ID applicants. For more information, please visit www.washtenawid.com.

Tom is 49 years old and has lived in Ann Arbor for nearly 20 years. He likes the Ann Arbor community – he raised his children here and is a diehard Wolverines fan. Six years ago, Tom hit a rough patch: he was laid off from his job, his car broke down, and he and his wife separated. Somewhere in the middle of this, his driver's license expired, but this was the furthest thing from his mind. It was enough of a challenge to just get through each day.

Unfortunately, Tom's rough patch stretched on longer than he imagined it would. After separating from his wife, he moved around regularly, sometimes staying with a friend, sometimes in a tent in the woods, and sometimes at the Delonis Center shelter. Renewing his driver's license continued to be low on Tom's priority list, and he did his best to make do without it: he didn't need it as a driver's license because he wasn't driving, and he was able to find a few stores where the staff knew him well and would allow him to purchase cigarettes even though his license was expired. He did odd jobs to earn money, and those employers didn't require him to have a current ID.

Lately, though, not having an ID has been getting in the way of Tom's needs and goals. He has trouble getting the medication he needs at the pharmacy without a current ID. He is tired of the looks he gets when he tries to buy cigarettes without an ID at stores where people don't know him. Tom also recently got back in touch with his daughter and found out that he is a grandfather – he would like to meet

his grandbaby and have a more stable home where the two of them could come to visit. He has been saving up and looking for housing, but most landlords require photo ID to view a property or sign a lease. Tom is also on the lookout for a new job, but jobs with better pay and steady hours typically require photo ID, as well.

Tom visited the Secretary of State to apply for a state identification card. It has been six years since his driver's license expired, so he could not simply renew it. The Secretary of State asked him to present a number of documents, including his Social Security card, his birth certificate, other identity documents as well as a recent bill or other piece of mail to prove he has a Michigan address. Unfortunately, Tom did not have everything he needed – many of his documents had been lost during the tumultuous past few years.

Tom is working on tracking down all the documents he needs to get a state ID, but in the meantime he was able to apply for the Washtenaw County ID. Like the Michigan state identification card, the Washtenaw ID requires applicants to provide multiple documents proving their identity and their Washtenaw County residence. However, the Washtenaw ID accepts a wider range of documents than the Secretary of State, making a valid, government-issued photo ID accessible to a wider range of people than regular state identification cards. Tom was able to prove his identity using his expired Michigan driver's license, his divorce papers, and documents from Project Outreach Team (PORT), an agency that serves the homeless in Washtenaw County.

With his new Washtenaw County ID, Tom hopes to have an easier time picking up his prescriptions at the pharmacy. He hopes to apply for a job with a steady income, find secure housing, and someday soon, meet his baby grandson.

Michigan's medical marihuana laws

continued from page 4

you are called by a court or protective services.

Medical marihuana and employment

The MMMA also contains certain provisions relative to employment. The MMMA does not require an employer "to accommodate the ingestion of marihuana in any work place or any employee working while under the influence of marihuana." Nor does the MMMA permit any person to undertake any task under the influence of marihuana when "doing so would constitute negligence or professional malpractice."

Court decisions in Michigan and several other states with medical marihuana statutes have concluded that those states' disability statutes did not require the employer to accommodate an employee's use of marihuana.

In the area of unemployment, benefits cannot be denied after an employee has been terminated for failing a drug test in the absence of evidence to suggest the positive drug tests were caused by anything but medical use of marihuana.

The MMMA's limited protections

While the MMMA statute offers some protection, it is not without limits. The court may review evidence to determine whether a person's conduct related to marihuana was for the purpose of treating or alleviating the person's debilitating medical condition or symptoms associated with the condition. If the person's use or possession of marihuana is not for that specific therapeutic purpose, and thus not "in accordance with" the MMMA, the person is not entitled to invoke the protections offered.

Cases where defenses have failed typically involve situations where the patient is tested for the amount of marihuana used and their amounts exceed the therapeutic level and/or constitute overuse.

While medical marihuana usage may be legal in Michigan, keep in mind that it remains unlawful under federal law.

Finally, each case is very fact-specific. Please consult with an attorney if you have any legal questions in this area.



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Cryptoquote Solution

Status quo, you know, is Latin for "the mess we're in."
– Ronald Reagan

6	8	4	5	7	2	1	3	9
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20	S	U	G	A	R	P	L	U	M	F	A	I
23	S	T	I	L	T	L	A	A	T	R	U	
27	P	H	O	T	O	C	O	P	E	M	C	E
33	Y	O	N	H	A	L	E	I	M	S	E	T
37	T	H	E	F	A	T	L	A	D			
40	P	A	S	E	O	S	T	U	D	M	A	O
47	A	L	L	E	N	S	H	I	L	L	B	I
52	S	T	A	D	A	D	L	A	D	L	E	
56	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	S	T	P	A	R
61	H	O	M	E	R	C	A	R	O	M	O	W
66	A	N	E	R	A	E	R	I	K	A	W	H
69	L	A	D	E	S	D	A	M	E	S	N	Y

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Curried tuna



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12 oz. white canned tuna, drained

1 stalk celery, chopped

1 very small red onion, finely chopped

1/2 cup slivered almonds, slightly
toasted

1/3 cup dried fruit

6 T. mango chutney

2 T. curry powder

5 T. mayonnaise

Mix together and chill until served.

Mad as hell

continued from page 7

well-paid American jobs make sense, and whether our nation can afford the unprecedented pace of military spending and adventurism.

While Trump makes a big deal about terrorism, he is very vocal about his opposition to the Iraq war and nation-building. He appears every bit the socialist, proposing more government spending in all areas – including the

military (which, currently at over \$600 billion, seems unimaginable). Relatively little has been heard so far from Sanders about specific military cuts.

The bottom line is that people are sick and tired of falling wages; watching their kids struggle to even get started with a quality education and seeing good jobs disappear for them and their children. The situation is unprecedented since World War II.

A Sanders-Trump match-up, which establishment politicians, their billionaire benefactors and the media laughed off as recently as a couple of months ago, is now a genuine possibility. We will see, but maybe voters will actually pay attention to real policy decisions undertaken by Democrats and Republicans – Bush, Jr. and Obama – which have contributed very directly to falling wages for the 99 percent. These policies include a strange, newfound and truly

“un-American” political orthodoxy that automatically accepts all trade deals and military spending as good and desirable.

Lots of things could happen over the next few months – perhaps revolutionary things, maybe even a breakup of the two-party system which, for way too long, has given us the best government that money can buy. Stay tuned.

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Ever wonder why we go out on the balcony this time of year?

I do it to prove my toughness. I also let the rodents know I'm still around and not to come up here!

You look so shiver-y and funny
when you do it though.

I wasn't a wild outdoor cat like you were. Patrolling in frigid air is still kinda new to me.

I enjoy basking in the sun even when the temperatures are near-freezing. I'm glad I kept my outdoor coat from my homeless days.

I guess this helps
us appreciate our
comfortable lives
now.

That's a good attitude,
Little One.

I learned from the best!

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